

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 CCO-00 SAB-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19 /152 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4304

INFO USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2016

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN XF

SUBJ: CANADIAN CONCERNS ABOUT PARTICIPATION IN UNDOF

1. CANADIAN MISSION HERE IN PERSON OF COUNSELLOR WANG, IN CONVERSATION WITH AMB SCHAUFEELE, SHOWING PRICKLY ATTITUDE ABOUT POSSIBLE CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN UNDOF WHICH HE LINKS TO CURRENT ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN.

UKUN MISOFF SAID CANADIANS EVEN MUTTERING ABOUT NEED TO CHANGE UNEF MANDATE.

2. IN SOMEWHAT CONFUSED EXPLANATION WANG SEEMS TO BE SAYING THAT CANADIANS REQUESTED TO SERVE ONLY IN UNEF AND WOULD REQUIRE FORMAL REQUEST FROM SYG, WITH SUBSEQUENT PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL OF SOME KIND, TO PARTICIPATE IN UNDOF. HE SAID MEMBERS OF CURRENT GOVERNMENT NOW ENGAGED IN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN HAVE TO BE ABLE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES IN CASE OF HOSTILE QUESTIONS FROM OPPOSITION OR MEDIA ABOUT CANADA TAKING ON NEW PEACEKEEPING CHORE WITHOUT FOLLOWING THIS PROCESS.

3. SCHAUFEELE POINTED OUT THAT UNEF MANDATE AND
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CANADIAN AGREEMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN UNEF NOT RESTRICTED

TO EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI FRONT. IN FACT SECURITY COUNCIL RES 346 OF APRIL 8, 1974, RENEWING UNEF, SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT UNEF "ESSENTIAL NOT ONLY FOR MAINTENANCE OF THE PRESENT QUIET IN THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI SECTOR BUT ALSO TO ASSIST, IF REQUIRED, IN FURTHER EFFORTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A JUST AND DURABLE PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST". CLEAR MEANING OF THIS CLAUSE IS POSSIBLE USE ON ISRAEL-SYRIA SECTOR.

4. IN LIGHT OF THIS LANGUAGE SCHAFELE ARGUED THAT SYG HAD SC AUTHORITY TO USE UNEF LOGISTICS UNIT, AT LEAST FOR TIME BEING, TO PROVIDE LOGISTIC SUPPORT FOR UNDOF EVEN THOUGH HE MIGHT NEED SEEK COUNCIL ACTION IN EFFECT TO TRANSFER UNEF CONTINGENTS TO FORM UNDOF FORCE IN BUFFER ZONE.

5. FURTHERMORE SCHAUFLE SAID HE PERSONALLY ANTICIPATED THAT AS NEW FORCE WENT INTO OPERATION SOVIETS AND PERHAPS OTHERS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE A NUISANCE IN POSING QUESTIONS LATER ABOUT FINANCING, MANDATE, COMPOSITION, ETC. T SEEMED VERY NECESSARY AT THIS DELICATE STAGE THAT CANADIANS NOT PRECIPITATE PROBLEMS WHICH COULD MAKE SYG'S JOB MORE DIFFICULT.

6. COMMENT: CANADIANS, AS WE KNOW, TAKE PEACEKEEPING DUTIES VERY SERIOUSLY - TO SUCH A DEGREE, IN FACT, THAT UN SECRETARIAT HAS OFTEN FOUND POLES EASIER TO WORK WITH THAN CANADIANS. WE FIND WANG'S VIEWS, IF THEY REFLECT THOSE OF HIS GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY INFLEXIBLE. USUN HAS BEEN CONSTANT STRONG SUPPORTER OF CANADA IN SC CONSULTATIONS ON UNEF OPERATIONS AND WE BELIEVE CANADIANS SHOULD NOT BE GETTING THEMSELVES INTO A RIGID POSTURE ABOUT ITS UNEF CONTINGENT'S ASSISTANCE TO UNDOF, ESPECIALLY IF SUCH AN ATTITUDE WOULD HAVE EFFECTS FAR BEYOND NARROW AND, TO US, SOMEWHAT PAROCHIAL CANADIAN CONCERNS. IN ALL HONESTY, ALTHOUGH PEACEKEEPING MAY BE ELEMENT IN DOMESTIC CANADIAN POLITICS WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT IT CALLS FOR SUCH A NARROW VIEW.

7. UNLESS DEPT PERCEIVES OBJECTION, EMBASSY OTTAWA MIGHT
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INFORMALLY RAISE MATTER OF CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN UNDOF, MAKING SOME OF ABOVE ARGUMENTS IF FOREIGN OFFICE TAKES LINE SIMILAR TO ITS UN MISSION.
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